Mental Patients

551. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mental patients in the country;

(b) whether the disease is coming down or increasing; and

(c) the percentage of population i.e. male, female, children suffering from such disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1. to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders. The number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and overall increase in the rate of depression world wide.

(c) There is no definite evidence to suggest higher prevalence rates related to gender or age. But women and children are generally more vulnerable to psychosocial stress and catastrophic events like natural disasters, communal or ethnic strife, terrorism and war.

Spurious Drugs Trade

552. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bhagirath Palace in Delhi is considered to be the mecca of spurious drugs trade in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the growth of this business and the details oi the people indulging in this business which has ruined the lives of several thousand innocent persons; and

(c) the number of raids conducted by the enforcement staff to detect the network of spurious drugs dealers during the last 3 years in the area and the number of persons arrested in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c)The incidences of detection of spurious drugs during the last three years in respect of Bhagirath

Palace wholesale Drug Market in Delhi areas under.:-

Year	No. of samples taken	No. of test reports received	No. of Samples found spurious	Percentage of spurious drugs
2001-02	394	389	07	1.54%
2002-03	748	655	—	Nil
2003-04 (up to 30.11.03)	320	11	—	Nil

From the above figures it cannot be said that Bhagirath Palace in Delhi is the Mecca of spurious drugs trade in the country.

The number of raids/special inspections made in Bhagirath Palace Market during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of raids/SIP carried out	No. Of firms raided	No. of samples drawn	No. of , test reports received	No. of samples found spurious (up to 30-11-03)
2001-02	34	218	394	389	07
2002-03	43	307	748	655	Nil
2003-04 (up to 30.11.03)	20	126	320	11	Nil

Licenses of 133 dealers of Bhagirath Palace have been suspended for not maintaining purchase sales record.

Population Explosion

†553. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether population explosion is major hindrance in development policies; if so, the steps taken so far by Government for creating awareness/spreading education among public with regard to need of norms regarding population control and small family;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.